

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SAJ-01 DODE-00 PA-03

USIA-15 PRS-01 VO-03 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 NIC-01

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /141 W

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R 071339Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1793

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10738

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ELAB UR

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS AND LABOR VISITS

REF: A. STATE 176016; B. MOSCOW 10447; C. MOSCOW 10637

1. SUMMARY: SMALL CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY IN SOVIET PRESS FAVORING CLOSER TIES BETWEEN SOVIET AND US TRADE UNIONS AND CALLING ATTENTION TO NEGATIVE US GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT. WE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE HEARING MORE ON THIS SUBJECT. SOVIET HOSTS MAY NOT BE AMENABLE TO LABOR EDITORS' DESIRE TO AVOID PUBLICITY DURING THEIR UPCOMING VISIT (PARA 3 REF A). END SUMMARY

2. TRADE UNION NEWSPAPER TRUD SEPTEMBER 5 CARRIED EXTENDED INTERVIEW WITH ALBERT FITZGERALD, CHAIRMAN OF "ELECTRO-, RADIO-, AND MACHINE-TOOLMAKERS UNION" IN WHICH HE REFERS TO RECENT VISIT HIS UNION MADE TO SOVIET UNION AND EXPRESSES REGRET THAT "FOR TIME BEING" HE IS UNABLE TO RECIPROCATATE SOVIET HOSPITALITY BECAUSE OF "ABSURD POLICY" OF REFUSING US VISAS TO SOVIET TRADE UNION DELEGATIONS. FITZGERALD CALLS FOR ELIMINATING TRADE BARRIERS AGAINST SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND INCREASING US-SOVIET TRADE UNION RELATIONS.

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3. IZVESTIYA SEPTEMBER 5 AND PRAVDA AND TRUD SEPTEMBER 6 PRINT TASS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON ON "GROWING INTEREST" OF AMERICAN UNIONS IN DIRECT CONTACTS WITH SOVIET WORKERS, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY FORTH-COMING VISIT BY METALWORKERS DELEGATION TO USSR.

4. TRUD SEPTEMBER 6 (REF C) REPORTS RECENT STATE DEPARTMENT REFUSAL OF VISAS TO DELEGATION OF SOVIET FOOD INDUSTRY WORKERS AND BLAMES GEORGE MEANY AND AFL-CIO LEADERSHIP FOR OUTDATED POLICY BEHIND REFUSAL, WHICH ARTICLE CONTRASTS WITH GENERAL TREND OF IMPROVING RELATIONS AND WIDENING CONTACTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. DOUBTLESSLY WITH CSCE IN MIND, AUTHOR POINTS OUT THAT IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORUMS OFFICIAL AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SPOKEN OUT IN FAVOR OF DEVELOPING CONTACTS OF DIFFERENT KINDS.

5. COMMENT: SOVIETS CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE PUBLICIZING VISITS OF AMERICAN LABOR UNION GROUPS. IN GROPPING FOR COUNTER-ARGUMENTS TO USE IN DISCUSSIONS OF FREER MOVEMENT ISSUE IN CSCE, SOVIETS WILL PROBABLY CALL ATTENTION TO APPARENT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN USG STATEMENTS CALLING FOR FREER MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES AND IDEAS AND USG POLICY RE VISITS OF SOVIET TRADE UNION GROUPS TO US.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW10738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DUBS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730949/aaaabjqo.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 176016; B. MOSCOW 10447; C.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <04-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS AND LABOR VISITS
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005